

Prisoner Reentry in the Midwest: An Overview

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Research..

- Prison population nearly doubled from 708,393 in 1990 to 1,277,127 in 2002.
- In 2002, at least 95% of all offenders are released to some type of supervision (state or federal).
- In 2000, 41% successfully completed supervision, 42% were sent back to prison, 9% absconded.

Bureau of Justice Statistics



Prison Demographics

- **State DOC:** Capacity – 3,175; Count – 4,428; **139.5%**
percent of capacity!
 - **Gender:** 4,077 or 92.1% Male; 352 or 7.9% Female
 - **Race:** 2,465 (55.7%) White; 1159 (26.2%) Black; 543 (12.3%) Hispanic; 208 (4.7%) Native American
 - **Offenses:** Sex Offense (20.4%); Drugs (17.2%), Assault (15.4%), Robbery (13.5%), Homicide (13.3%), Theft (12.7%), Burglary (11.3%), Motor Vehicle (8.9%)



Prison Demographics

- **Parolees:** 627 Parolees within the state and 214 Parolees from other states in NE; total = 841

- **Age:** 36.61

- **Location:** 234 (35.9%) Metro Omaha, 202
(31%) Metro Lincoln, 74 (11.4%) South Central, 57
(8.8%) Northeast, 40 (6.1%) Southeast

Nebraska Dept. of Corrections – 9/22/09



Research

- Phase system of transition into society....

Institutionalization

Structured Reentry

Community Reintegration



UNO study

- Nebraska Department of Corrections and Violent Offender Reentry Program, were evaluated by Dr. Lisa Sample, and Dr. Cassia Sphon with UNO, CJ
- The program compared 19 individuals with the Reentry group, with 53 offenders who DID not participate.
Found recidivism to be 5% less among those in the Reentry program.



UNO Study

- Cost/Benefit Analysis

2007 Average cost for offenders:

misdemeanor cases: \$6,014.00

felony cases: \$21,156.24

Found that the cost savings per participant was \$5,849.

*figures were based on cost/benefit analysis of Douglas County Drug Court, 2004.



UNO Study

- Societal-victimization cost savings....

According to “Victim Costs and Consequences”, (1998)
US Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation adjusted
(2007).

Average cost of Violent victimization is \$42,098

Average cost of property victimization is \$1,313

Study found that based on recidivism rates and types
of crimes of participants, the cost savings per
participant is \$4,788.



Federal statistics

- District of Nebraska stats.
- Adopting St. Louis idea



Research...

- Employment and Success Rates....



What are we doing to minimize the transition?

- Collaboration with Federal halfway house.
working not only current caseloads, pre-release cases

Addition of Bristol Station, rural direction.

What are we doing to minimize the transition?

- Evidence Based Practice:
 - Risk/Assessment
 - Target Interventions
 - Skill Directed Practice
 - Intrinsic Motivation
 - Increase Positive Reinforcement
 - Engage in Ongoing Support
 - Measure relevant processes/practices
 - Provide measurement feedback



Collaboration with agencies:

- OES-is a training program featuring a variety of OES (Offender Employment Specialist) professionals in jails, prisons, probation and parole, community corrections, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations. These individuals demonstrate best practices, discuss ways for overcoming challenges, and identify tools and strategies for improving outcomes in offender employment.
- OWDS-A comprehensive program designed to increase the participant's ability to provide adult offender and ex-offenders with skills to gain employment. Training program that consists of 177 hour training; classroom, assignments, and practicum.



Outside Resources

- Other agencies-Local Workforce Development, Chamber of Commerce, Voc Rehab, Employment First, Metro Community College
- State Probation and Parole
- Other federal entities; BOP and Southern District of Iowa (Council Bluffs offenders).



Getting the Offender Involved

- Increased Intrinsic Motivation....

Getting their buy in and commitment.

- Motivational Interviewing (MI):

A person centered method of fostering change by helping a person explore and resolve ambivalence. (Miller and Rollnick)

Instead of external pressure, brings out internal motivation to want to change.

Focus on empathy, rolling with resistance, develop discrepancy, and support self-efficacy.



Getting the Offender Involved

- Cognitive Development
 - Moral Reconciliation Therapy
 - Thinking 4 A Change (T4C)



Questions or Comments?



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- Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Reentry Trends in US”, Available at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>.
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